

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

On page 1, line 3, please delete "DESCRIPTION" and insert in its place the following new heading:

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

On page 1, after line 10, please insert the following new heading:

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Please delete the text that begins on page 3, line 7 and ends on page 4, line 1, and in its place, please insert the following new heading and new paragraph:

**BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

In accordance with the present invention, a gas switching device for high and medium voltage applications is provided. The gas switching device includes at least a mobile arc contact, a corresponding fixed arc contact and a nozzle having a hollow shaped body which is positioned inside the device around a zone where electric arcs form between the arc contacts during switching operations. The hollow shaped body has an electrically conductive first portion and a second portion made of electrically insulating material which at least partially surrounds the first portion. The hollow shaped body is mechanically secured directly onto the mobile arc contact by conductive connecting means which is configured so as to electrically connect the mobile arc contact to the first portion.

On page 4, after line 1, please insert the following new heading:

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING**

On page 4, after line 6, please insert the following new heading:

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

On page 6, please replace the paragraph that extends from line 9 through the end of line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

In turn, the filler is made of one or more electrical conductive materials, for example graphite or carbon or superconductive carbon or mixtures thereof, preferably in form of powder or grains of proper dimensions, chosen in the range from nanometers to millimeters. In order to ensure a proper conductivity and stability of the material, the volume of the filler is chosen in the range between ~~0.1%~~ 0.1% and 40%, of the total volume of the first portion, preferably between ~~0.5%~~ 0.5% and 35%, more preferably between 1% and 30%.